

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated January 03, 2007, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the attached amendment and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented here are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has indicated that claims 9 and 10 are in condition for allowance, and that claims 6-8 are objected to, but would be allowable but for their dependence on a rejected base claim. Applicants cordially thank the Examiner for indication of the allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9 and 10 have been amended. No new matter has been added by the amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-10 based on the amendment and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Canova (European Patent No. 0,752,805, hereinafter "Canova"). The Examiner states that Canova discloses all of the elements of the abovementioned claims, primarily in FIGS. 1, 3 and 4, and column 1 lines 23-37, column 4 lines 12-17 and column 5 lines 18 through column 6 line 51. Applicant respectfully traverses for at least the reasons set for below.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, "wherein the voltage applied to the light source is increased based on the control signal" The present invention includes the feature that a voltage applied to the light source increases based on a control signal generated from an inverter controller. That is, as described on page 10, line 5 to page 11, line 14 in the Specification as originally filed, when a sensed temperature from a temperature sensor is less than a predetermined temperature, the voltage applied to the light source is higher than that applied under the stable operation.

Canova (EP 0752805) discloses a thermal protection circuit 51 including a heat-sensitive block 53 of which an output signal is changed based on values of resistors 61, 63, and 65, which are varied by a sensed temperature and a feedback and thermal hysteresis block 57, as shown in FIG. 4. Canova further discloses a transistor 41 of which a control terminal is connected to the output signal from the heat-sensitive block 53. As described in Paragraph 5, lines 24-25 and

lines 31-33, the transistor 41 functions as an overcurrent protection transistor, and thereby the heat-sensitive block cuts off the transistor 41 when the temperature of a lamp L exceeds a certain preset value.

In contrast as described above, in the present invention, the voltage applied to the light source increases when the sensed temperature is less than a predetermined temperature. However, in Canova, when an overcurrent is sensed, that is, a sensed temperature from the heat-sensitive block 53 is more than a predetermined temperature, the heat-sensitive block cuts off the transistor 41 such that the voltage application to the lamp L is stopped by turning off of the transistor 41. Accordingly, Canova does not disclose the feature of the present invention.

In particular, Canova does not teach or suggest an inverter controller which generates a control signal for controlling the inverter depending on the first signal of the temperature sensor, wherein the voltage applied to the light source is increased based on the control signal, as in amended independent claim 1. Thus claim 1, including claims depending therefrom, i.e., claims 2-8, define over Canova.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to claims 1-6 under § 102(b) be withdrawn and allowed the same to issue.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks distinguishing the prior art of record, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Attorneys at the below-listed telephone number regarding this Amendment or otherwise regarding the present application in order to address any questions or remaining issues concerning the same.

If there are any charges due in connection with this response, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By: /James J. Merrick/
James J. Merrick
Registration No. 43,801
Confirmation No. 6728
Cantor Colburn LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone (860) 286-2929
Customer No. 23413

Date: April 3, 2007